

# The Holocaust in Hungary

1944-1945

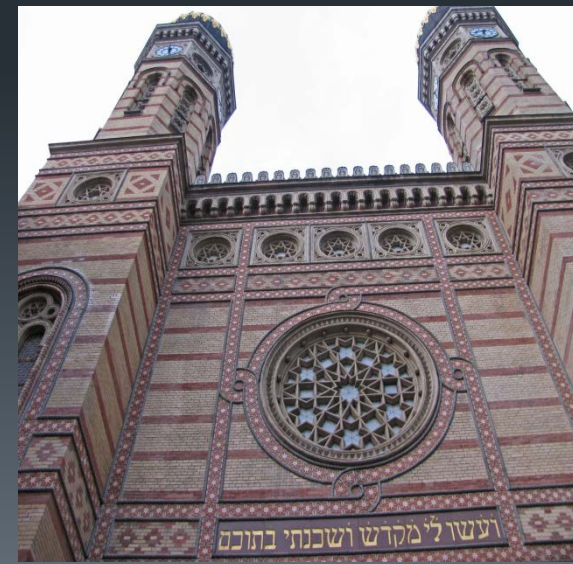


Hungarian children at Auschwitz-Birkenau: May, 1944

Presentation developed for the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at  
The Ohio State University by Kathryn Metz

# Jews in Hungary

- 725,000 Jews in Hungary
- Half-lived (360,000) lived in Budapest and were assimilated into “Hungarian” culture
- Rural Jews were seen as outsiders, not acculturated



# Treaty of Trianon



What happened to Hungary after World War I?

What do you think they felt?

Who shared a similar experience with them?

# Horthy and Hitler

- Hungarian leader, Horthy became friendly with Hitler in 1930s
- Hitler gave land back to Hungary (Czechoslovak land, Transylvanian land, Yugoslav land)
- However, because of the alliance, Hungarian Jews were not targeted!
  - Why?





# Anti-Jewish legislation

- However, Hungary passed anti-Jewish legislation beginning in 1938:
  - Jews = “race” not just religion
  - Created a labor service = slave labor for Jewish men
  - Defined who was a Jew (someone with 2 Jewish grandparents)
  - Only 12% of lawyers, professors, doctors could be Jewish
  - All Jewish teachers must retire by 1943
- **Still the Hungarian Jews do not think the Holocaust will come to Hungary!!!!**

# Hungary betrays Germany



- Everything changed when...
  - Hungary felt threatened by Soviet Union advances (they were terrified of being invaded by the Soviets)
  - Hungary looked to the allies (U.S. & Great Britain) for HELP
  - Germany discovered Hungary's plan to switch sides in the war
- **Germany invades Hungary and implements the Final Solution**



# Deportations to Auschwitz

- Deportations of Hungarian Jews happen faster than in any other country
- In just 2.5 months, over 430,000 Hungarian Jews transported to Auschwitz
  - 70-90% were immediately sent to the gas chambers
- Most of these Jews were rural Jews, Jews in Budapest had a different fate
- **Auschwitz became the most murderous concentration camp in the last year of its operation because of all the Hungarian Jewish deportations**



# Why is this important today?

- Jobbik & the re-emergence of anti-Semitism in Hungary
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxOKZ5sYW18>

